

AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 4, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

In order to achieve the above object, a first invention provides an information recording medium comprising a substrate on which the grooves are formed, a recording layer to which an optical beam is applied; and a cover layer for protecting the recording layer, wherein the thickness of said cover layer is thinner than the thickness of said substrate; wherein the cover layer, the recording layer and the substrate are disposed in this order from the side where the optical beam is applied, and wherein the thickness of the recording layer formed in an area opposed to the groove and forming a recording track on which the information is recorded is greater than the thickness of the recording layer formed in an area opposed to an area on the substrate between the two adjacent grooves.